The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor, covering in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and publishes other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.—Thomas Jefferson.

WHOLE NO. 1420 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1938 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 28, NO. 27

EDITORIAL

Dr. Ezekiel's Wage Fallacy

Dr. Mordecai Ezekiel, economic adviser to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, seems to have become an ally of those who oppose organized labor's just demand for constantly rising wages and constantly decreasing length of the work week as the only adequate method by which working men and women can secure a fairer proportion of the new wealth in the production of which their brain and brawn are the most essential elements.

Speaking at the fourth annual conference of the Tax-ment Economic and Social Institute, at Tarrytown, Dr. Ezekiel declared that wage increases should be limited and gradual, and that even these small advances in the remuneration of the wealth producers should be made dependent upon the so-called "ability" of employers to pay them without any increase in either the cost of production or the price. In short, Dr. Ezekiel accepts as valid and ethical the employers' ancient and subversive policy that when low wages have been imposed upon the workers by means of the autocratic power which ownership of the means of production gives to employers, these low wages must not be increased unless the workers produce larger quantities of commodities and services for the employers to sell at a profit.

Dr. Ezekiel, in his wages theory, begins at the wrong part of the industrial mechanism. He starts with the employers, who, under our system of production, employ workers to make a profit out of their labor, and who fix prices for the articles the workers produce so that that profit will be secure.

Labor, in its theory of wages, starts at the groundwork of our industrial mechanism. Labor begins with the millions of working men and women who are the actual producers of the wealth which the employers, when it is produced, own as their private property.

For the production of this wealth (goods and services) Labor demands wages that shall make secure for every worker the opportunity for that more perfect physical and mental health and growth required by rational self-respecting human beings who aspire for themselves and for all humanity, of which Labor is, of course, by far the largest element, a higher, a better and a nobler life.

This standard of life rises as civilization progresses. To realize this ever-advancing standard for the workers and their families, the American Federation of Labor, fully conscious of the all-important function performed by the workers in the wealth-producing process, demands, in the language of one of the A. F. of L. conventions, "a constantly increasing and largest reward as the result of our labor and our services to our fellows."

Under our system of production and distribution of wealth, this larger reward can only be secured by larger wages with which to purchase the necessaries, the conveniences, the comforts and even the so-called luxuries which are required for such standards and which are capable of providing for all our people when those who manage our productive and distributive mechanism organize it so as to make it possible for the masses throughout the Nation to acquire with their pay envelope contents all the essentials of the abundant life.

In other words, it is an axiomatic fact that for the masses of our people the necessary and constantly increasing portion of the wealth making up this abundant life, wealth which in the final analysis is mainly produced by the masses themselves, can only be realized by ever-increasing wages. The profit motive, and even the profits of those who own and operate industry, will have to be regulated in consonance with the just demand of the toilers for a larger and larger share of the new wealth created under our industrial system, and created largely by those whose remuneration is wages.

Dr. Ezekiel, standing by the side of the employers, holds that this remuneration should be gradual, and, above all, limited to the amount the employers are able to pay without increasing prices. Organized labor, standing by the side of the wealth producers in industry, holds that wages, which determine the lives of the workers, must rise and rise until the abundance that is possible for all encompasses the home of every toiler in the United States of America.

Home Owners Loan Corporation Helps One Million Families to Pay For Their Homes

Government Organization Set Up to Aid Those Facing Mortgage Foreclosures Has 750,000 Borrowers Who Are Meeting Their Payments; Interest Rate Reduced to Five Per Cent; Second Mortgage Practically Abolished.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

One of the outstanding demoralizing effects of the business depression which began in 1929 was the destruction of wage earners and other persons of moderate means who lost their homes by mortgage foreclosures. To mitigate this distress the United States Congress in 1933 established the Home Owners Loan Corporation with authority to make loans on homes at more reasonable interest rates and less onerous conditions than were imposed by private lending concerns.

In celebrating the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the HOLC, Richard W. Jones, general manager, made public certain figures which strikingly reveal the protection which the government has given home owners. Over 750,000 borrowers from the HOLC are making satisfactory payments, he said. In addition, about 100,000 others are being aided and approximately 30,000 borrowers have paid their loans in full. A sum aggregating $3,315,795 has been paid back by HOLC borrowers as a sum representing 12.8 per cent of the principal indebtedness.

Pointing out that when the HOLC entered the home mortgage field American home-seekers were balked in their desire to completely own their properties by being required to assume only one mortgage, but usually two and sometimes three, and that they usually paid off the second and third mortgages, with heavy fees, but preserved the first mortgage time and time again, Mr. Jones said the HOLC remedied this condition by refinancing the direct reduction plan. It introduced a five per cent interest rate. It helped to abolish the second mortgage. Its borrowers are getting long years in the ownership sense. These modern contracts, all fashioned to the home-seeker, have renewed the desire for home ownership.

In the field of statistics, Mr. Jones' report revealed that the HOLC has endeavored to help approximately 1,800,000 families by home purchase. Of these, about 620,000 have either entirely paid up, or have made payments which are more than three months in arrears. About 138,000 more are meeting all current bills and are making regular monthly payments on their arrears. About 100,000 others still have a chance to keep their homes.

Where payment failures, the HOLC has been obliged to take over about 272,000 homes, the average foreclosure becoming effective only after borrowers are twenty months delinquent in both principal and interest, with taxes mounting to a point where the corporation, the mortgagor, lienholders and taxpayers is forced to act.

Repair Loans Made For 1,500,000 Homes Under Program of Federal Housing Administration

Owners of Private Capital Lend Over $600,000,000 on Notes Insured by the Government, Thus Avoiding All Risk of Loss by Investors.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Confronted in the Summer of 1934 with the nation-wide refusal of banks and other money-lending institutions to meet the demand for loans for modernizing and repairing homes, small business establishments and institutional properties, Congress passed a law creating the Federal Housing Administration to induce the owners of private capital to enter this field by means of a plan of government insurance of the loans, which it was believed would actually relieve unemployment in the housing field.

The lack of risk persuaded private capital to advance the funds for these loans with so much alacrity that up to April 1, 1938, when the loans were temporarily stopped by Congress, the Federal Housing Administration, according to Stewart McDonald, FHA administrator, had insured 1,451,000 repair loans amounting to over $646,000,000. On Feb. 8, 1938, the plan was restored and liberalized under amendments to the National Housing Act. Since then 52,000 loans amounting to $44,000,000 have been insured by the FHA, and the present rate of insured loans is more than $4,000,000 weekly.

It is interesting to note that residential units represent about 90 per cent of the loans, the number of more than 1,500,000 homes having taken advantage of the Government's modernization plan. The remaining 10 per cent of the total was represented by small business establishments and institutional properties.

Mr. McDonald pointed out that under the plan as provided in the amendment borrowers may obtain amounts up to $2,000 for the repair, alteration or building structures and amounts up to $2,500 for the erection of new structures. The payment of the loans for modernization purposes are made over periods over five years and loans for the erection of new structures for residential use over a period of ten years.

The purchase of machinery and equipment under the new amendments is limited to that which becomes a part of the structure, such as plumbing, heating plants and similar improvements. Individual borrowers, however, are permitted to make any type of structural repair, additions and alterations to home, farm, business, commercial, industrial and institutional properties.

STREET CAR UNION WINS 84 PAY INCREASE PACTS

Sixty Thousand Members of A. F. of L. Affiliate Have Also Gained Paid Vacations.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—Despite the business depression, during which employers have forced thousands and thousands of employes to accept drastic wage slashes, the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, by means of its strong organization and firm policies, has not only guarded successfully all of the members against reductions in pay but has actually won such increases for a considerable portion of its membership.

The high points in this remarkable record for maintaining and even improving wage rates during this "recession" are given in an editorial in the July issue of "The Motorman, Conductor and Motor Coach Operator," official journal of Amalgamated Association.

Out of this entire organization," the editorial says, "a number of local companies, employed upon three properties, have suffered UNCHANGED rates. These are small operations involving a total of 164 men. On the other systems, which employs 1,355 men, the reduction is temporary. The previous high rate there was, according to the agreement, to be restored on Oct. 1.

Eight-Year Wage Boost Agreements

"Since business took a nose dive last fall 115 Local Divisions have signed agreements with the employing companies. In each instance where contracts were opened for negotiating the managements demanded reductions in the wage scales or attempted to do away with favorable working conditions. Despite this fact 84 of the settlements have been INCREASES in pay. It is interesting to note that since last September arbitration has been resorted to in only four cases and in each wage boosts resulted.

"Twenty-six agreements have been renewed in the last nine months without change in the wage rates, this in many of these and in the other agreements concessions were gained in working conditions and still others provided for vacations with pay. Several contracts reached early in 1937 run for two years and are not affected by the condition which developed since the signatures were affixed.

No Strikes Called

"And here is one more impressive fact of all—In not one instance has it been necessary for a Local Division to strike or defend itself against wage cuts or to improve them. Through negotiation or arbitration hundreds of thousands of dollars have been added to the incomes of Amalgamated Association members in times like these, without the loss of one day's work or a minute's interruption of service to the public. This is an achievement that surpasses anything recorded for any other group of wage earners, organized or unorganized, in North America.

Vacations With Pay

Another achievement of which the Amalgamated Association is justly proud is the tremendous strides made toward obtaining paid vacations for its members. At the present time, according to officials of the association, the members of 114 Local Divisions, numbering more than 60,000 street railway and bus line operators, receive annually vacations of from fifteen days to seven days with pay. Five years ago the numbers of only fifteen Local Divisions had arrangements with the management through which their members received paid vacations.

COLORADO LABOR HOLDS SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Colorado Springs, Colo.—The forty-third state convention of the Colorado State Federation of Labor, held here, was the one of the largest and most harmonious meetings in the history of the organization. Nearly one hundred delegates reaffirmed their faith in and allegiance to the American Federation of Labor.

At a mass meeting in honor of the delegates arranged by the Colorado Springs Federated Trades Council, Governor Teller Ammons declared that labor had one of the greatest safeguards for labor. He outlined his 16-year building program which provides steady jobs for the workers and a market for farm products.

John E. Gross, a member of the Pueblo Machinists' Union, was elected president of the State Federation for the years, and James A. Brownlow, a member of the Denver Typographical Union, was elected secretary-treasurer.

Twelve vice presidents were also elected, representing the various districts.

The convention called upon organized labor throughout the State to fight to the bitter end any legislative measures to enforce wage slashes. The resolution on this subject declared that Colorado "labor goes on record as opposing every attempt at wage cutting, and insists that every business, manufacturing institution and citizen refrain from adopting wage reductions as a means to offset the present economic situation."

S. C. LABOR FEDERATION HOLDS BIG CONVENTION

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Columbia, S. C.—The annual convention of the South Carolina State Federation of Labor, held here, was the largest and most enthusiastic and constructive meeting ever held by the State labor body.

The delegates were welcomed by Earl Mann, president of the City Federation of Labor, on behalf of the mayor of Columbia, and R. M. Cooper, president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Paul J. Aymon, acting Southern Representative of the American Federation of Labor, told the delegates that the C. I. O. is making big claims for political effect. He said he would not vote for any candidate who is endorsed by the C. I. O. and urged the people of South Carolina to be on their guard against the political activities of C. I. O. leaders.

Al Firam of Charleston, was re-elected president of the State Federation. Fred E. Hatchell, of Columbia, was elected secretary-treasurer.

The convention also elected four vice presidents, five district organizers, and a legislative committee of six members, with Earle R. Britton of Columbia as chairman to succeed himself.

Real Status of Federal Workers Will Be Explained to the Public

American Federation of Labor Government Employes' Council Plans to Controvert Widespread Falsehoods That U. S. Workers Receive Too Much Pay For Too Little Work and That "Government Jobs Are Mainly Political Sinecures."

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor Government Employes' Council, composed of representatives of organizations numbering approximately 200,000 members, announced that it is working on plans to inform the American people regarding the true status of government employe in this country.

This action is taken, the Council said, because many government workers feel that their position has been misrepresented on a widespread scale by persons who are not properly informed, or by propagandists. There is, the Council declared, an unfortunate impression in many quarters that government jobs are mainly political sinecures, and that government employes are overpaid and underworked.

The prevalence of this impression is regarded as extremely harmful to them in their efforts to obtain betterment of their wages and working conditions through recognized trade union channels, and they feel that in justice to the public and government agencies, as well as themselves, the facts should be made known.

It is altogether too easy, the Council points out, for public officials to attack government workers as tax-eaters because too few people know how hard they work, how little they are paid, and how completely qualified they are to fill the positions they hold.

The American Federation of Government Employes, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, the National Association, the National Association of Letter Carriers, and Local Union No. 44 of the International Association of Machinists, are all composed entirely of government employes. All are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Moreover, there is no general understanding, even in the labor movement itself, of the actual number of A. F. of L. affiliates among government workers, and these organizations are listed to keep the record straight.

MANY GAINS RECORDED BY SOUTHERN UNIONS

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Atlanta, Ga.—Continued progress of union organization in the South is reported by International Representatives at the Headquarters of the Southern Organizing Campaign of the American Federation of Labor here.

In Albertville, Ala., a new local of the International Brotherhood of Painting and Common Laborers Union of America has been chartered.

Following a strike an agreement was signed at Baton Rouge, La., between the management of the Louisiana Ice Manufacturing Company and a committee representing the A. F. of L. union of which the plant employes are members.

A local of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America has been organized at Elberton, Ga., and a local of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is in process of formation.

In New Orleans, La., an A. F. of L. union of Truck Farmers and Helpers has been organized with more than 700 charter members.

The executive board of the Tennessee State Federation of Labor is shaping a two years campaign to more thoroughly organize the aluminum workers at Alcoa, Tenn.

In Greensboro, N. C., an employe of a trucking firm of Atlanta and Charlotte joined the Charlotte local of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America. The firm manager refused to hire him. The Teamsters local asked for his reinstatement. The request was granted. Officials of Teamsters local and Central Labor Union filed charges against the trucking firm with National Labor Relations Board. The victimized teamster was reinstated with back pay from the date of his discharge.

A local union of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association has been organized at Ragland, Ala.

The Briggs Manufacturing Company, of High Point, N. C., has signed an agreement with the A. F. of L. union of Upholsterers International Union of North America. This is the first time the company has signed an agreement with the Upholsterers Union.

At Elberton, Ga., the local of the Granite Cutters International Association of America renewed its agreement with the Georgia Granite Corporation and other employers in the granite industry. T. E. Whitaker, State Commissioner of Labor, assisted representatives of the local and national unions in negotiating the agreements which run for two years.

The Position of Church Groups On Fundamental Labor Questions

Trade Unionism and Higher Wages Are in Harmony With the "Social Ideals of Christianity"; Unjust Distribution of Wealth Criticized; Turning Wage-Earners Into "Mere Instruments For the Making of Money For Others" Attacked as a Violation of God's Purpose.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service has received many requests for information relative to the views of the Christian Church on the vital economic questions affecting the interests of America's millions of working men and women.

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, composed of twenty-five Protestant denominations with a membership approximating 22,000,000, issues annually, through its Department of the Church and Social Service, a "Labor Sunday Message" designed to be read from the pulpits of all Protestant churches on the Sunday preceding Labor Day. The Message gives the views of the affiliated groups on current questions concerning the broad aspects of the labor problem, and sets forth a program based on the principles enunciated by Christ, and asserted that trade unionism and higher wages are in line with Christian social ideals.

ABOLISH POVERTY

Claiming that the Bible justifies the application of the principles of the Christian religion to the organization and operation of modern industry so that poverty can be abolished, and the rights of the workers affirmed, the Federal Council's 1937 Message said:

"On the Labor Sunday dedicated to a consideration of the meaning of the Christian Gospel for our industrial life we remind ourselves of the spiritual heritage of the prophets of Israel. We saw that the God who rules the universe is also the God of righteousness in all affairs. God, as revealed in the Bible, is one to share in His concern for justice for all. As Jeremiah said of King Josiah, 'He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Was not this to know me?' saith the Lord.

"On this day we remind ourselves also of the compassion of Christ for the poor and disinherited. That compassion, in a day when poverty was inevitable, becomes for us in our day, poverty can be abolished, a demand for justice in the distribution of the product of industry. From the teaching of Christianity it is intolerable that masses of men, women and children should be denied the opportunities which comfortable people regard as necessities. We see that creative personality is to be more instruments for the making of money for others; the welfare of all must be inherent in the end for which all the processes of production and distribution are carried on.

LABOR ORGANIZATION NECESSARY

"It is because of the concern of religion for justice and brotherhood that church bodies have for thirty years officially declared for the right of employes as well as employers to organize. Back of these declarations has lain the conviction that the personality and personality and of the dignity of the common man, which is basic in the teaching of Jesus that all men are children of God.

"Such a belief issues in a demand for democracy both in political and industrial relations. This applies to the organization of workers in order that they may have a recognized voice in determining the conditions under which they live and work. Experience has shown that since industry is often organized on a national or even wider basis, labor unions of corresponding scope are needed if workers are to be adequately represented in truly democratic relations, and if industry-wide standards are to be established.

UNION MEMBERSHIP GROWS

Commenting the fact that "many industries in this country have been organized over a long period of years" and that "it has been demonstrated that it is possible for organized employers and organized labor to maintain generally harmonious relations," and that "many problems arise through joint conciliation without resort to strikes or lockouts, thereby to the terms of their contracts," the Council set out that "the past year has been marked by a significant advance in wider organization of workers," and said "the decision of the Supreme Court validating the National Labor Relations Act marks a wider and more farreaching recognition by law of labor's right to organize and bargain collectively."

LOW WAGES CONDEMNED

"As yet only a minority of American workers are organized," the Council declared, "and it is still true of many that annual wages of many skilled workers are still below a decent level of living, while the wages in many industries, both urban and agricultural, are grossly inadequate for a decent standard of living for them and their families. Many millions still can find no work. All the processes of production and distribution are carried on.

LABOR ORGANIZATION A DUTY

"Such a belief issues in a demand for democracy both in political and industrial relations. This applies to the organization of workers in order that they may have a recognized voice in determining the conditions under which they live and work. Experience has shown that since industry is often organized on a national or even wider basis, labor unions of corresponding scope are needed if workers are to be adequately

CLASS BIAS OF CHURCH DENIED

"In the growing complexity of society many of us have been so cut off from the daily struggle for existence that we are tempted to think of them not as persons but as problems. Nevertheless, welfare in this world is as important in the sight of God as our souls, but as strange masses.

"While there are millions of wage earners in our churches, yet many of our congregations have drawn their membership by reason of location and association, chiefly from the more comfortable middle classes. Many church members see the world from a point of view quite different from the point of view of the laboring masses.

"Christianity, as a religion of brotherhood, is bound to be a class that is relatively secure, many of us tend to fear the very social changes which we should welcome as in line with the ethical demands of our Christian faith. While professing against all the injustices and intolerable class consciousness, we fail to realize that our own point of view is largely controlled by the bias of class.

"Our first need is for self-knowledge and repentance, and sincere desire that the mind and heart be in us which was in Christ Jesus who counted not privilege and status as things to be grasped but emptied Himself in the service of others.

CONSUMERS CO-OPERATION STRESSED

"There are many parties to industry. The demand of the hour is for greater tolerance, understanding and a fair mind among them, and these have been raised among employers urging modification of labor laws and industry must be attained. Prices to consumers must be taken into account. Labor and consumers in many countries have been quick to grasp the advantages of consumers' cooperation as a vital part of the movement toward a better day.

"Comprehensive collaboration of all groups is urgently needed. Employers, of labor, consumers and the government must work together to provide for the economic needs of all the people. We must create also such cooperative relations among the nations and such economic reforms as will make it impossible for the bonds of peace. Selfish struggles and selfishness, of balance and pride and intolerance which would tend to tear apart any social order.

"The Church must therefore continue to serve society by proclaiming Christ's gospel of justice, love, and reconciliation, and by insisting that both individuals and economic and political institutions shall conform to the will of the God of justice and love."

ALL FORTY-EIGHT STATES NOW HAVE OLD AGE PENSION ACTS

Enactment of Social Security Law by 1938 Session of Virginia Legislature Completed Program For Protection of Needy Aged Sponsored by American Federation of Labor.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

When Governor James H. Price of Virginia affixed his signature to the Weaver-Hillard Omnibus Social Security Bill enacted by the recent session of the Virginia Legislature, he placed the last State of the Union on the roll of old age pension commonwealths.

The enactment of the Virginia law completing nation-wide legislation providing assistance for the indigent aged in the United States may be rightly regarded as a definite achievement of the American Federation of Labor, which has long been the militant advocate of this eminently just protection for persons who have reached old age without adequate income to provide them with the necessities of life.

As early as 1902 the American Federation of Labor approved the principle of old age pensions. The increasing need for this form of social legislation was emphasized by A. F. of L. conventions year after year coupled with efforts to secure both Federal and State assistance for the needy aged. In 1927 the Federation assumed the leadership in a vigorous movement for the prompt realization of this necessary type of social justice.

Ordered Study of Pension Systems

Impressed by the continual increase in the number of aged destitute persons and the utterly inadequate provision in a few States for their protection, only six States and the Territory of Alaska having pension plans, the 1927 convention of the Federation adopted the recommendation of the A. F. of L. Executive Council for a "comprehensive study of all plans of old-age pensions."

The Council made a voluminous report to the 1928 convention covering old-age pension systems in the various States of the United States and in Canada, including forty-seven bills on this subject submitted to the Congress of the United States beginning with a bill introduced by Congressman W. B. Wilson in 1907, the Federal bills all having had the support of the American Federation of Labor.

Believing, however, that there was urgent need for more adequate information, the Council recommended "that the American Federation of Labor ask the Congress of the United States to make the necessary appropriation and to authorize a commission or aid any bona fide agency to undertake such a report." The Council said that "such a commission should consist of representatives of Labor, employers and the public and should have adequate technical counsel."

The 1928 convention unanimously adopted the recommendation of the Council.

Started Militant Pension Campaign in 1929

Recurring to the importance of protection for the indigent aged in its report to the 1929 convention the A. F. of L. Executive Council recommended that "a model compulsory old age pension law should be drafted by the Federation and recommended to State Federations of Labor as a matter of first order of importance," and declared that "we should then inaugurate such a campaign for the enactment of such laws in every State." After a thorough discussion the convention adopted the Council's recommendation with practically no opposition.

Hearing on Pensions Held by Congress

In the Congress of the United States, at the request of the American Federation of Labor, held an extensive hearing on the question of old age pensions for the first time in the history of that body. Although ten States and the Territory were listed as having enacted old age pension laws, the A. F. of L. Executive Council reported to the 1930 convention of the Federation that "none of them is of such a practical character that the American Federation of Labor can unequivocally endorse them as model laws."

Seventeen States Had Pension Laws in 1931

By 1931 the Executive Council informed the A. F. of L. convention that seventeen States had enacted old age pension laws, but that practically all of them required amendments to make them more in accordance with the principles of justice for the aged advocated by the American Federation of Labor.

In 1932 old age pension legislation came before Congress in a bill introduced by Representative Connery, chairman of the House Labor Committee, granting aid to the States that would enact old age pension laws. It provided that the Government appropriate $10,000,000 to the various States to pay one-half of whatever sum was paid to aged persons. A bill covering this subject approved by the American Federation of Labor was also introduced in both Houses of Congress.

In 1933 There Were Twenty-Five Pension States

In its report to the 1933 convention the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor said that through the aggressive campaign in behalf of old age pension legislation by State Federations of Labor and Central Bodies affiliated with the Federation the number of States with old age security laws had been increased to twenty-five.

Federal Assistance Included in Social Security Act

The Council said it was its purpose and intention "to utilize every means at the command of the American Federation of Labor and to continue its efforts to secure the enactment of old age pension laws in the different States."

In 1934 President Roosevelt named President Green and other representatives of the American Federation of Labor to serve in an advisory capacity on the President's Committee on Economic Security whose report the President used as the basis for his message to Congress early in 1935 recommending the enactment of the Social Security Bill which included a section providing for Federal Government to match up to $15 a month old age pensions in States where the State pension law has been approved by the Social Security Board.

From the time the Social Security Bill was introduced until it was enacted into law and signed by the President in August, 1935, the American Federation of Labor represented the united front of the labor movement in the fight for the measure, including the provision for Federal assistance to State old age pensions.

And now in less than ten years after the American Federation of Labor inaugurated its vigorous campaign for State old age pensions for the indigent aged, and in less than three years after the provision for Federal assistance to State old age pensions contained in the Social Security Act became the law of the land, the United States has passed the necessary legislation to give the indigent aged monthly pensions to protect them from want.

This important achievement is certainly one of which the American Federation of Labor with its more than three and one-half million members may well be proud.

ECONOMIC INSECURITY MUST END

"As industrial and economic life becomes more complex we discover increasingly urgent need for more personal conservation of individuals," the religious 32nd. For religion will always be unattainable not only for the soul of the individual, but also as social ideal for the whole race of mankind. Selfishness in the bonds of peace. Selfish struggles and selfishness, of balance and pride and intolerance which would tend to tear apart any social order.

"The Church must therefore continue to serve society by proclaiming Christ's gospel of justice, love, and reconciliation, and by insisting that both individuals and economic and political institutions shall conform to the will of the God of justice and love."